

## INITIATIVE 246

I, Ralph Munro, Secretary of State of the State of Washington and custodian of its seal, hereby certify that, according to the records on file in my office, the attached copy of Initiative Measure No. 246 to the Legislature is a true and correct copy as it was received by this office.

1       AN ACT Relating to the establishment of Washington state  
2 constitutional initiative procedures facilitating Washington state  
3 citizens to initiate and directly enact amendments to the Washington  
4 state Constitution; adding new sections to chapter 29.79 RCW; and  
5 creating a new section.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

7       NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 1.** (1) We the people of the State of Washington  
8 are sovereign, and at times may find we need to express this  
9 sovereignty by directly amending the state Constitution, in order to  
10 ensure that our government continues to function in our best collective  
11 interest.

12       (2) All government, including government by elected  
13 representatives, can be and often is influenced by well-financed and  
14 organized special interests, and becomes incapable of acting in the  
15 people's best interests. Therefore, we cannot rely on representative  
16 government to police itself, and alter its own form and constitutional  
17 powers, or the provisions of the Constitution. For these reasons, it  
18 is necessary for the people to provide themselves the means to act  
19 separately from and above government in order to amend the state  
20 Constitution in ways we deem necessary to ensure the proper functioning  
21 of government.

1       (3) We the people, as sovereigns of the state of Washington, do not  
2 require the explicit authorization within the existing Constitution to  
3 directly alter its form. We possess the unalienable human and  
4 constitutional right as citizens of the state of Washington, as free  
5 and equal human beings, as the original enactors of the Constitution,  
6 and as the only legitimate source of its authority, to amend, alter, or  
7 completely replace our state Constitution as we may choose,  
8 notwithstanding the presence or absence of any stated provisions within  
9 it. The constitutional basis for this right resides in the Preamble to  
10 the state Constitution: "We, the people of the State of Washington,  
11 grateful to the Supreme Ruler of the Universe for our liberties, do  
12 ordain this constitution;" Article I, Section 1 POLITICAL POWER: "All  
13 political power is inherent in the people, and governments derive their  
14 just powers from the consent of the governed, and are established to  
15 protect and maintain individual rights;" Article I, Section 4 RIGHT OF  
16 PETITION AND ASSEMBLAGE: "The right of petition and of the people  
17 peaceably to assemble for the common good shall never be abridged;" and  
18 Article I, Section 30 RIGHTS RESERVED: "The enumeration in this  
19 Constitution of certain rights shall not be construed to deny others  
20 retained by the people."

21       NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 2.** The following definitions apply to sections  
22 3 through 5 of this act unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

23       (1) "Constitutional initiative measure" means any proposed  
24 amendment or alteration to the state Constitution that is printed on an  
25 initiative petition.

26       (2) "Constitutional initiative" means an initiative that proposes  
27 an amendment or alteration to the Washington state Constitution.

28       (3) "Constitutional initiative petition" means a petition meeting  
29 all the requirements stipulated in this chapter, and having printed on  
30 it a proposed amendment or alteration to the Washington state  
31 Constitution.

32       (4) "Constitution" means the Washington state Constitution.

33       NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 3.** The procedures governing constitutional  
34 initiatives shall be the same as those governing other state  
35 initiatives to the people as prescribed in this title, except as  
36 otherwise stated.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 4.**    In case of constitutional initiative  
2 petitions the number of signatures required to qualify the  
3 constitutional initiative measure for the ballot shall be equal to or  
4 greater than three percent of the votes cast for the office of governor  
5 at the last gubernatorial election preceding the initial filing of the  
6 text of the constitutional initiative measure with the secretary of  
7 state.

8        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 5.**    Constitutional initiative measures proposed  
9 to be submitted to the people must be filed with the secretary of state  
10 within sixteen months prior to the election at which they are to be  
11 submitted, and the constitutional initiative petition must be filed  
12 with the secretary of state not less than four months before the next  
13 general state-wide election.

14        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 6.**    Sections 2 through 5 of this act are each  
15 added to chapter 29.79 RCW.

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